

Men Make Houses; Women Make Homes

Women to Write in New Copy Record of Real Joy of Living

One of the best books recently written by a woman for the reading of other women declares that women should turn a new leaf in the copy book of humanity, and instead of again entering a fresh plea for recognition and recognition of a list of grievances, should illuminate the page with the short and simple annals of the real joy of living. After years of attitudinizing as the complaining slave, the book author contends, women are called upon to forsake the familiar posture and reveal themselves instead as being brave enough to live fully, freely and independently. To do this it is primarily necessary that women should fling away many petty afflictions and break away from the shackles they have forged for themselves by adhering too rigidly to

Preaching down a human heart. Even the modern woman, the woman of to-day, entrenches herself behind a creed which, put into words, restricts her to saying, doing and looking the right thing—that is, the thing which social parance is designated as "good form." The creed is correct in itself, but a woman may follow it so obviously that it renders her whole ordering of life like a cut and dried reprint, in which the eye is offended by the heavy sameness of the copy line, and sensitiveness is repelled by the pervading odor of printer's ink, the last result of correctness defeating its own end and aim.

Women might well start a reform with the purpose of exemplifying and teaching the desirability of the entire sisterhood learning to be less imitative and more original, to be brave enough to do and be as they wish, and not to follow the pace set by another woman who chances to be the social leader of the hour. Overdressed marionettes, dancing as the strings are pulled, might be replaced by genuine women, who have an interest in the plain, common sense happenings around them, and who are conscious that the public does not center its entire time and thought in their actions and conversation.

Not all women have the overmastering inclination by which others are possessed to be eternally playing to the grandstand. Some women reason that the occupants of the grandstand are dull pupils when their writing in the copy book comes to be read. They decide to write copies after their own ideas and present a spicy variety, rather than an eternal sameness. Their handwriting may not be altogether perfect, but it will be remembered longer. Women who live aside from the idea of life, in its remote byways, are too apt to feel that decisive utterances come from the brains and lips of those who gain knowledge of civic and national affairs, of commercial and social interests, at first hand. Such utterances record at best only the views of the individual, and should be taken at their real and not at a fictitious value.

The essentials, and not the non-essentials, count in the copy book where women daily write. The superfluities, dear to the hearts of the sex feminine, can be dispensed with here, where the little human affairs that have to do with real living—the cheerful, blazing fire, the well ordered home, the simple but properly prepared dinner, and the atmosphere of sympathy and happiness—are the realities that count as woman's truest and best estate.

Young girls who resent as undeserved the criticism that they render much trimmings impossible because, each and all, they desire to live a life of luxury and idleness, to be beautiful to look at, to be a wonder in the way of accomplishments, to have hands of velvety softness and hair wonderfully and fearfully coiffed. Suppose women, instead of breaking their hearts and embittering their natures by trying to all write the same copy in the same copy-book handwriting, could simply be plain women, setting down the reflections of busy days. Surely they would be happier and better than if they were straining after fashionable functions and an empty round of so-called pleasure.

ALICE M. TYLER.

Valentine Contest.

The valentine contest did not end until yesterday, so the name of the prize winner, will be announced next Sunday.

FASHION IN PADRICS.

Striped Satin Crepe.

This variation of crepe de chine seems to fairly lengthen while one looks at its vague, shimmering lines. It is loudly enough even for the debutante.

Designs and Colors.

Old cashmere shawl designs are revived in the newest silks and velvets. Crepe de chine and soft satin have floral designs interwoven with the material, satiny fabrics for spring appear in khaki tints.

Spangled Tulle.

Black tulle for evening wear is spangled with gold and silver. Pongees embroidered and in all varieties will be much favored.

Watered Silk Coats.

Long, close coats in watered silk for spring wear have coat-like buttoned back to form large lapels. Many gowns are looped up at one side of the front by an ornamental pocket or big embroidered loop, showing a petticoat effect.

Unique Skirt Cut.

Some of the new skirts for walking gowns are cut with a flare toward the hem, the fullness, however, folds itself over on each side of the front or back, from knee to hem, many little loops and buttons holding it flat.

Black Tulle Sleeves.

Long, tight black tulle sleeves on an evening gown of amber-colored satin, shows to what good effect black, transparent draperies may be used on neck and arms in place of the more usual white.

Colors in Gloves.

For daytime wear, there is an inclination to break away from the prevailing mode in tan and about instead the rarer shades of fawn. Butter color is another favorite, and for evening white gloves are more or less out of vogue since the advent of colors.

More and More in Favor.

The jabot which quite long is more and more in favor. It is fashioned of fine net, plaited and trimmed with lace and hand-embroidery. Trimming and embroidery of color on white appears in jabots of white mulline, edged with mousseline de soie in green, cerise and other shades matching the color of the costume.

Pringe for Bags.

It is said that fringe will be an ornamental feature of the new spring handbags, the bag being less than half the length of the fringe attached to it. The bags will be of soft, crushable leathers or chamois skin, covered with

silk embroideries. They are gathered up at the top by cords and have long tassels as a finish.

FOR THE HOME DRESS-MAKER.

A Sewing Board.

Take a piece of stout cardboard, 12x14 inches, as a foundation and cover it back and front with natural covered Russian crash. Hang it in a convenient place by a ribbon strap. In the center a linen strap forms a scissors pocket. There are two pockets to secure papers or needles. A bodkin and thimble are held in place by two smaller straps. A black and white spool of No. 50 thread are tied in place with ribbons, so that the cotton can be reached off without disturbing the spools. A pin-cushion is suspended below the scissors.

Protective Skirt Brand.

To women desiring something effective in the skirt protector, the use of a double fold of bias broadcloth is recommended. Any other closely woven cloth may be used in the same way, but material that is wavy or inclined to ravel should not be considered. The bias is cut one and a half inches wide, folded together and slightly pressed. It is basted to the lower part of the skirt so that a cord-like edge is visible on the right edge, and the double raw edge appearing on the wrong side is cat-stitched fast to the under side of the facing or hem.

Medallions as Trimming.

Instead of applique medallions so that they lose their effectiveness and look like spots, they should be surrounded by a careful contour of narrow lace, by insets of fine tuckling or by the skillful use of cotton or silk soutache, so that the medallion may appear a part of a continuous and harmonious design.

Embroidery Hints.

So many times the eyelet hole is recognized by the embroiderer, either as part of the design or for a round spot to run ribbon through. There is a most attractive steel stiletto with a saucer that slides up and down, and may be set at a given point to make positive size of each eyelet. Some exquisite centerpieces display a combination of stitches in the use of coronation braid mingled with solid embroidery and French knots. One edge shows a row of heavy satin stitch and the other the button-holed finish. Another button-holed edge is finished in long, uneven scallops with a second row like it a half inch farther in.

Cocked-Hat Cases.

Most people know how to make cocked hats out of paper. These, if made out of greased paper, form excellent cases in which to make the small cakes, or in which to shape the candy. The only difficulty is to get them to stand on end, so that they may be filled with butter and then baked, but one can improvise a bake-pan by using the perforated bottom of the roaster raised at each end. Put about a teaspoonful of butter in each one, pushing it down a little in the center with the spoon so that it will rise evenly. When the cakes are nicely browned on the top, remove from the oven, then unfold the cocked-hat cases, and you will have perfectly shaped cocked hats.

There is a Compromise.

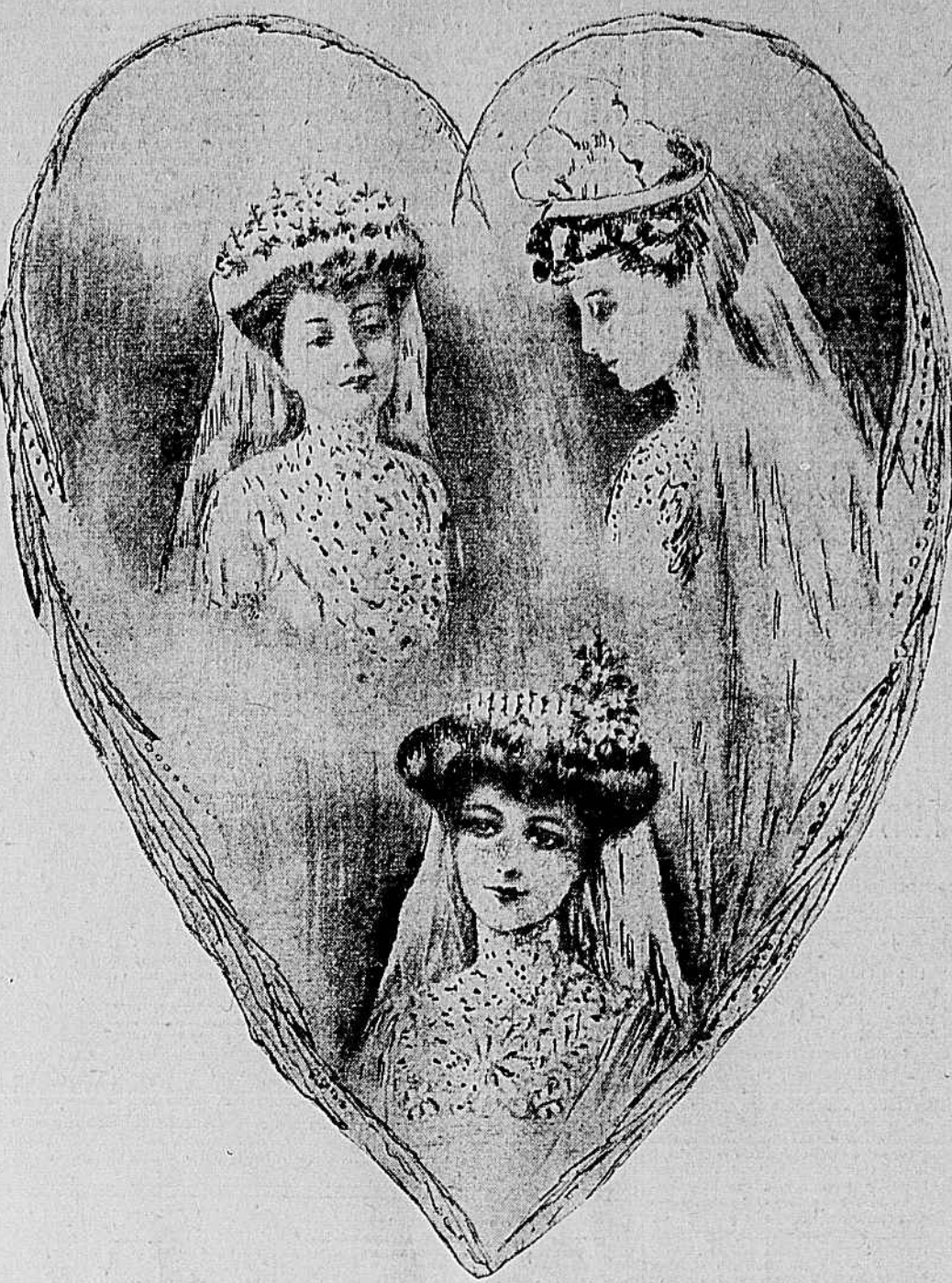
For the very thin woman, compelled to wear a thin gown or else appear the only guest without a "wedding garment," there is a compromise.

The neck of her broadcloth gown may be cut square, even a low square, with a two-inch band of bias liberty satin or mouseline crossing the open square, rather high up, just where the neck is thinnest.

The chiffon sleeves, almost close fitting or slightly mouseline, may have the same bands going round the arm, two above the elbow and one just below it, with an added one or two near the hand. Hook the sleeve over as tight as possible, down near the hand, a very close fit round the wrist gives the upper arm the appearance of being rounder than it is.

Fashion Prophecy.

Tailored suits will be worn less and less, so the wise ones say, and soon there will be no blouses at all. Now, of course, this is merely a prediction, but at least it is interesting. The only materials which have found favor in Paris this season are silk cashmere, satin and crepe de chine. The predominating color is green and old tones of green. Sleeves, forming mittens on the hands are already so popular that they have become an ordinary feature of the present-day dress.



CHARMING EFFECTS IN BRIDAL COIFFURES.

Home Made Ruching.

It is a very pretty sort, and particularly desirable because it can be made just full enough, and not too full to be becoming, and the colors chosen may bring in the necessary touch for the gown that still requires a softening line over the hard above the collar and down the front in jabot effect. It has been done in shades of orange for a cedar-colored tulle blouse worn with a cedar cloth costume. Cream chiffon was the material cut on the bias two inches wide (but it may be as much wider as desired), doubled and pressed on the fold of the goods with a warm iron. A corded effect in deep orange was worked in mercerized cotton along the double edge, by sewing with an over-and-over effect, which made but the merest line of color, yet all that was needed to introduce the orange note. The chiffon was pleated and sewed into a batiste band ready to baste into neck and sleeves.

The Mother-in-Law Speaks.

Every mother with a daughter has her idea about the sort of man she wants for a son-in-law, but not every mother has the forethought to train her daughter in the making of a home, as her part of the matchmaking. An "Optimistic Mother," in the February number of the Woman's Home Companion, tells just the sort of son-in-law she desires, and how she is trying to insure having him. Read "My Future Son-in-Law" if you're a mother, or if you're a young man with matrimonial aspirations, or if you're a girl who prefers marriage to bachelor girlhood. You'll get some strong side lights on what a nice girl really is, and what sort of man she ought to marry, and you'll find out just what one wholesome, common-sense mother thinks about, regarding schools and kissing games and chaperonage and parlor accomplishments.

The Unreturned.

O the ships go out to the farthest shore,
And the ships come home again;
The dew that dries on the morning's roe
Returns in a drop of rain.
But the joy of a day that I smiled away,
I call to it in vain!
O the primrose hides, in a cup of rust,
Lies gold on the winter's ice;
And comes, her pilgrim staff aloft,
In your far-off mystery.
With the flowers that used to be—
But the golden smile of a little while
Will never come back to me!
O the stars go out with the break of dawn,
And the stars are full and bright;
When the sun has turned his face away,
And the world has seemed of light—
When the glad world beamed I dreamed—
I dreamed:
O the birds forsake the coloring wood,
And the birds come home to sing;
The breath of the fallen rose returns,
On the wind of the swallow's wing—
But the harp I know of the long ago
Lies mute in the soul of spring!
O rose that blooms in garden wild,
O bird in a lonely tree,
I know the gifts of my heart lie deep
In your far-off mystery.
And bloom and sing in eternal spring—
Though they never come back to me!
—Aloysius Cull, in the January Appleton's.

Rose and Silver.

A brunette wore a gown of rose-colored mouseline crepe. It dragged heavily against the limbs, defining them, under the overdress of silver-embroidered rose tulle. Silver lace trimmed, the crepe corsage, cut low, Florentine fashion, over only one thickness of silver-embroidered rose tulle. This also made the long sleeves. Darker silk, its trim bound with velvet, made the wide tail, trimmed with great crushed roses of silk and tulle in different shades of rose.

The Municipal Broom.

When the woman came down to earth again she was still clutching the broom, and, finding her house all swept and garnished from cellar to attic with products of the factories, she began to wonder if men, in taking for themselves all this labor belonging by right to women, might not have neglected their own legitimate work, so she looked about her, and on every hand saw the evidences of such neglect. The condition of the streets was a menace to health; impure milk was killing off the babies by the thousands, while impure water and food threatened destruction to the rest of the race; idle children swarmed the highways and byways because there was no room for them in the schools; from afar off came the cry of the little ones sacrificed in the labor market; on every side the agencies of evil had set their doors wide open to lure the innocent.

The Separate Gumpie.

The separate gumpie still holds its popular niche in the fashionable world and will continue to hold it while the vogue of the over-brous dress lasts. The tendency is to have it harmonize in color with the costume, but the contrasting white net or lace gumpie is too dainty in appearance and too becoming to every type of complexion to be given over entirely.

Home Button Maker.

When many buttons be made at home? First, last and often, but not always, because on some of the more magnificent costumes the buttons must necessarily be of richest creche, with the underlining of satin showing through, or else covered with satin, which requires very accurate manufacture, or of the jeweled variety. The hand-made button is, however, not to be despised, and with deft fingers beautiful buttons may be made at home. It is delightful "pick-up" work, me-

chanical enough to admit of conversation sprinkled in after the first button or two.

Some of the narrow novelty braids woven round and round and sewed as they are woven make rich buttons. The gold and silver braids are used in button-making for evening dresses. A basket weave combining the two is a new and effective covering, but is too difficult to recommend except in the very experienced.

Button decorations and centers of shaped ornate bands may be had at the fancy-work counters, are particularly ornate, giving a richness to house gown and evening dresses, and for repeating some note of color in the gown or the jewelry. These braided and beaded buttons are necessarily less difficult when larger they may be woven on thin, firm silk or dress material first, or may be worked upon the covered button mold.

Her First Caller.

It is probable that no girl has forgotten that exciting thrill caused by the announcement that a young man has come to call. She remembers how cold were her hands as she wondered what she would talk to him about; how she was divided between the fear that her family would come in and spoil his visit, and that they would not come in to help her out.

The very first question which worries a young girl, when she has met an agreeable young man, is whether she shall ask him to call or wait for him to ask permission. The rule for this is simple. It is the girl's place to speak first. It is her home and she invites him to it.

He must always accept her invitation, but whether or not he calls is left to him. A girl must not suggest any special time, unless it is her custom to have callers on any certain evening. All she need say is, "I shall be very glad to have you come in to see me some time." She must not urge the matter, or repeat the invitation; she would then appear anxious.

There are young men who call on a girl without an engagement. This is commonly done. In older days one arranged an evening agreeable to both, but this is no longer necessary. The customs of to-day are simpler and more agreeable. Young men take their chances at finding a girl at home, or they telephone and ask if they may come, or make an appointment when they meet the girl. Whichever way it is arranged, there is no denying she is a bit perturbed about receiving the caller.

Dainties and Ices.

Cocked-hat dainties require the whites of eleven eggs, beaten to a stiff froth. Take one and one-half cupfuls of granulated sugar and one cupful of flour, and sift each seven times. After sifting, put one teaspoonful of cream of tartar in the flour. Sift the sugar over the white of egg, beating briskly; then sift in the flour, stirring quickly, but lightly. Flavor with vanilla. Drop this batter into the paper cases and bake in a slow oven for about twenty minutes. Ices can be molded in shape of cocked hats, and the sandwiches should be cut to represent them. Pretty cocked-hat place cards can also be used.

The Cakes Spiced.

For cocked-hat spiced cakes, cream together one-half cupful of butter and one cupful of brown sugar. Add the yolks of three eggs, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of grated nutmeg, one teaspoonful of salt, and stir well together. Stir in a half cupful of molasses and the same of sour milk. Add a half teaspoonful of soda to two cupfuls of flour, and beat in. Bake in the cocked-hat cases.

Before the pancakes were eaten, in the old days, there was great contention among the revellers to see which could most adroitly toss them in the pan. This custom is still kept up in many of the European countries. A party is given at which cakes are served, each member being invited to toss his own pancake for good luck. If the cake comes down smoothly, a year of good fortune is predicted. If it drops in a crumpled heap, a year of indifferent luck lies ahead; while one whose cake goes so wide of the mark as to miss the griddle entirely is predestined for sorrow's own. Wherever the pancake falls, there it must be eaten.

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